

The H-1B Work Visa History, Loopholes and Scapegoats

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Dept. of Labor OFCCP Training Session

August 31, 2016

URL for these slides (repeated on final slide):
<http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/OFCCP.pdf>

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- *Scapegoating*
The Infosyses are no angels, but they are being unfairly scapegoated.

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- This is false. The abuse of H-1B pervades the entire industry.
- **The hiring of H-1Bs as foreign students at U.S. universities has just as much adverse impact on U.S. citizen/permanent resident workers as does the Infosyses' direct hiring from abroad.**

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- **2000:**
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 - Congress enacts further increase to 195,000/yr in 2000 — just weeks before tech stocks tank, Dot Com Bust begins.

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 - Replaces the old 2-tiered prevailing wage rule by a 4-tiered one. **New Level I has lower wage than old Level I.** H-1B employers now can pay even less.
 - For the Intels, added a special 20,000-visa category for foreign students with MS/PhD degrees.

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- Common sense: Wages basically flat (see OES data), so no shortage.

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 - Google admits it.

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 - Novel new titles, e.g. Junior Software Engineer (HP).

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 - Immobility enables wage exploitation.

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Case Study: Bank of the West

- Bay Area bank. An “Intel.”
- Plugging “quantitative analyst Bank of the West” into LinkedIn (People section) shows almost all were undergrads abroad, thus likely H-1Bs.
- Most are from China.
- Most are ordinary people, not “the best and the brightest.” Their U.S. grad degrees are NOT from top schools.
- There are plenty of U.S. citizens, permanent residents who could do this work.

The H-1B
Work Visa
History,
Loopholes and
Scapegoats

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Dept. of
Labor OFCCP
Training
Session

For More Information

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- These slides: <http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/OFCCP.pdf>
- Some of my research papers:
<http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/Mich.pdf>,
<http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/MigLtrs.pdf>,
<http://www.epi.org/publication/bp356-foreign-students-best-brightest-immigration-policy/>
- My blog: normsaysno.wordpress.com
- My bio: <http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/matloff.html>